



# NEWS RELEASE

05-043

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## MAJOR FREEWAY CLOSURES PLANNED ALONG 60/91/215 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

**RIVERSIDE** – For the next several evenings, motorists can expect to experience continued major freeway closures as work progresses on the \$317 million 60/91/215 Freeway Improvement Project.

- **State Route 91** - Beginning Wednesday, Feb. 2 through Friday, Feb. 4, all westbound lanes of the State Route 91 Freeway will be closed from just before the interchange between State Route 60 and the Interstate 215 freeways to just after the interchange, a distance of approximately 800 feet. The closures will occur on weeknights from 9 p.m. until 5 a.m. the next day.

Motorists who normally travel along the westbound SR91 are advised to detour the closure by exiting SR91 at the westbound SR60, and exiting at either Main or Market streets. From there, motorists can simply turn left on Main or Market streets and double back onto the eastbound SR60, and ultimately transition to the westbound SR91.

This closure is called in order to build metal and wooden falsework around existing freeway-to-freeway connector columns to support the future lanes of the connector. This sweeping connector ramp will be supported by 26 columns the range in varying heights up to more than 70 feet.

- **Interstate 215** – All lanes of the northbound Interstate 215 will be closed tonight (1/31) and Tuesday, Feb. 1 from the University Ave. Undercrossing to the Blaine/3<sup>rd</sup> St. Overcrossing. This closure will also occur during the night hours beginning at 8:30 p.m. and ending at 4:30 a.m. the next day. Crews will erect falsework at the Linden and Iowa bridges over the freeway.

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Motorists can avoid this closure by exiting I-215 at University Ave., and traveling westbound on University Ave. to Chicago Ave. Motorists can then turn right on Chicago and proceed to 3<sup>rd</sup> St. At that point, motorists will turn right on 3<sup>rd</sup> St. and continue back to I-215.

- **State Route 60** – On Tuesday, Feb. 1, all lanes of the eastbound SR60 will be closed at the 60/91/215 Interchange. Motorists are advised to detour the closure by taking the connector ramp to the westbound SR91 and exit at Mission Inn. Then turn left on Mission Inn, go under the freeway and come back on the eastbound SR91 and then transition to the southbound Interstate 215, which is also known as the eastbound SR60.

These closures are part of a three-year effort to rebuild the interchange between the 60, 91 and 215 freeways. This interchange, which carries more than 313,000 vehicles each day, serves as a major commercial and tourist gateway between San Diego and the Riverside/San Bernardino attractions of Palm Springs and Big Bear. Construction on the 60/91/215 Freeway Improvement Project began last February and is expected to be completed in late 2007.

For project updates, call Caltrans directly at 1-866-60-91-215. Photographs of the construction process are frequently updated and can be viewed at [http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist8/6091215/6091215project\\_pics\\_pg.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist8/6091215/6091215project_pics_pg.htm). Planned lane closures for the entire project are updated weekly and can be viewed by accessing the Web site <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist8/6091215/schedule.htm>.



Caltrans Resident Engineer Mike Bergevin, center, left photo, surveys work of ironworkers from Anderson Drilling, Inc., while they prepare metal cage to support concrete columns for connector ramps

Motorists are advised to always drive with caution around any freeway construction and closure area. Remember to always be alert, be safe, and ***SLOW FOR THE CONE ZONE.***